

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6286

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 2392

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, AORG

SUBJECT: GATT SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

REF: STATE 64377

1. DURING INFORMAL MARCH 29 MEETING OF KEY CONTRIBUTORS TO GATT BUDGET, BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN (FEIJ, NETHERLANDS) PRESENTED HIS PROPOSALS AS INDICATED IN GENEVA 1623. U.S. STATES OUR POSITION IN REFTEL TO EFFECT THAT EVEN TOMIC COMPROMISE WAS UNACCEPTABLE, AUGMENTATION OF STAFF ASSISTANCE FUND SHOULD BE MADE ONLY WITHIN REGULAR BUDGETARY PROCESS, AND USE OF APPROXIMATELY 25 THOUSAND SWISS FRANCS IN CURRENT SURPLUS ACCOUNT FOR STAFF AMENITIES IN NEW BUILDING COULD BE AGREED ONLY ON UNDERSTANDING THAT BUILDING FUND WOULD NOT LATER HAVE TO BE REPLENISHED BY A LIKE AMOUNT.

2. EC HAD PREVIOUSLY HELD AN INTERNAL COORDINATING SESSION, AND MEMBER STATES HAD AGREED THAT ONLY THE BUILDING USE PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTABLE. AMOUNTS ENVISAGED BY EC MEMBER STATES VARIED FROM "WELL BELOW 100 THOUSAND FRANCS" TO "ABOUT 25 THOUSAND FRANCS". HOWEVER, ONLY FRANCE AND FRG ATTENDED MARCH 29 MEETING. CANADA, SWEDEN, JAPAN GENERALLY AGREED WITH U.S. AND EC POSITION.  
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TIONS.

3. FEIJ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT CURRENTLY PAID-UP BUILDING FUND OF 5 MILLION FRANCS MIGHT HAVE TO BE SUPPLEMENTED, I.E., DESPITE "LAST" ASSIGNMENT OF 800 THOUSAND SWISS FRANCS FROM 1977 BUDGET, A FURTHER SUM LIKELY WILL BE NEEDED. U.S., FRANCE SAID WE MUST FIRST OBTAIN

A CLEAR PICTURE OF EXPECTED SHORTFALL IN EXISTING BUILDING FUND BEFORE AGREEING TO STAFF AMENITIES EXPENDITURE. U.K. DEL WILL APPROACH GATT D-G LONG ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN MARCH 29 MEETING TO ADVISE HIM THAT WE MUST KNOW EXTENT OF BUILDING FUND SHORTFALL BEFORE WE CAN REFLECT FURTHER ON OUR PREFERRED COURSE OF ACTION. SWEDISH DEL WILL ASK GATT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN (AMB. DE GEER OF SWEDEN) TO APPEAL TO OTHER DELEGATIONS TO KEEP GATT SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES ITEM OFF GATT COUNCIL AGENDA UNTIL INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS COMPLETED. FEIJ WISHED AVOID MAKING THESE APPROACHES HIMSELF BECAUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE INCLUDES A NUMBER OF DELS WHICH SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF DISBURSING THE 515 THOUSAND SWISS FRANCS IN THE SUSPENSE ACCOUNT TO GATT STAFF. THEREFORE, HIS ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ENTIRE COMMITTEE PREVENTED HIS SPEAKING ONLY ON BEHALF THOSE DELS PRESENT AT SPECIAL MARCH 29 MEETING.

4. WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS WE EXPECT TO GAIN A CLEARER PICTURE OF BUILDING FUND SHORTFALL. WILL REPORT FURTHER. SORENSON

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## Message Attributes

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